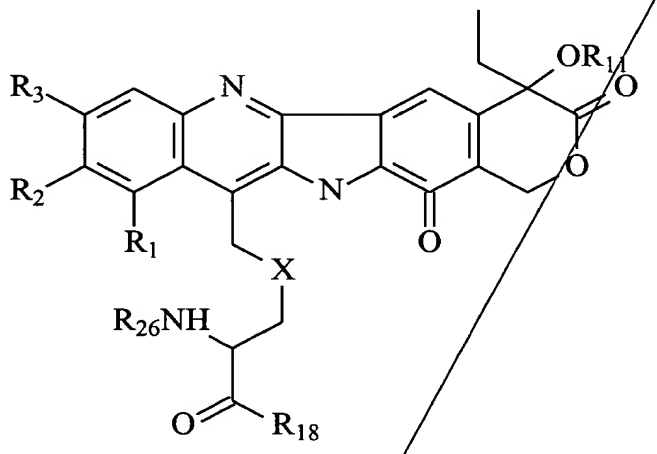
WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. A compound comprising:



wherein R_1 and R_2, are each independently

NO_2, NH_2, H, F, Cl, Br, I, COOH, OH, O-C_{1-6} alkyl, SH, S-C_{1-6} alkyl, CN, NH-C_{1-6} alkyl, N(C_{1-6} alkyl)$_2$, CHO, C_{1-8} alkyl, N_3,

-Z-$(CH_2)_a$-N-$((CH_2)_bOH)_2$, wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of O, NH and S, and a and b are each independently an integer of 2 or 3,

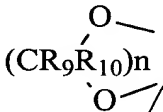
-Z-$(CH_2)_a$-N-(C_{1-6} alkyl)$_2$ wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of O, NH and S, and a is an integer of 2 or 3,

-$CH_2NR_4R_5$, where (a) R_4 and R_5 are, independently, hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} COR_6 where R_6 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, perhalo-C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkyl, or (b) R_4 and R_5 taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a saturated 3-7 membered

heterocyclic ring which may contain a O, S or NR_7 group, where R_7 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, perhalo-C_{1-6} alkyl, aryl, aryl substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen, nitro, amino, C_{1-6} alkylamino, perhalo-C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkyl and $-COR_8$ where R_8 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl perhalo-C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, aryl, and aryl substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl, perhalo-C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkyl, or C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkyl groups;

R_3 is H; or

or R_2 and R_3 combine to form a ring

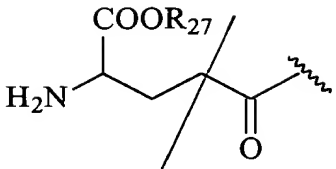


where R_9 and R_{10} are each independently H or F and n is an integer of 1 or 2;

R_{11} is H, or $C(O)-(CH_2)_m-NR_{12}R_{13}$, where m is an integer of 1-6 or $-C(O)CHR_{14}NR_{12}R_{13}$, where R_{14} is the side chain of one of the naturally occurring α-amino acids, R_{12} and R_{13} are, independently, hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl or $-C(O)CHR_{15}NR_{16}R_{17}$, where R_{15} is the side chain of one of the naturally occurring α-amino acids and R_{16} and R_{17} are each independently hydrogen or C_{1-8} alkyl;

R_{18} is OR_{19} or $R_{19}OC(O)-(CH_2)_m-NR_{20}$, or $R_{21}OC(O)CHR_{22}NR_{20}$, where R_{19} is H or C_{1-6} alkyl, m is an integer of 1-6, R_{22} is the side chain of one of the naturally occurring α-amino acids, R_{20} is hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl or $-C(O)CHR_{23}NR_{24}R_{25}$, where R_{23} is the side chain of one of the naturally occurring α-amino acids and R_{24} and R_{25} are each independently hydrogen or C_{1-8} alkyl;

R_{26} is H or



where R_{27} is H or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

Sub A6

X is S or O,

provided that R_{18} and R_{26} are not both H;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound of Claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of 7-glutathionylmethyl-10,11-methylenedioxy-20(S)-CPT, 7-monoethylglutathionylmethyl-10,11-methylenedioxy-20(S)-CPT, 7-diethylglutathhionylmethyl-10,11-methylenedioxy-20(S)-CPT, 7-cysteinyl(thio)methyl-10,11-methylenedioxy-20(S)-CPT, 7-cysteinyl(thio)methyl-10,11-methylenedioxy-20(S)-CPT, 7-cys-β-ala-methyl-10,11-methylenedioxy-20(S)-CPT, 7-glu-cys(thio)methyl-10,11-methylenedioxy-20(S)-CPT, 7-Glu-Cys(thio)methyl-10,1 1-MD-20(S)-CPT, 7-cys-β-ala-methyl-20(S)-CPT, 7-glutathionylmethyl-20(S)-CPT, 7-monoethylglutathiomethyl-20(S)-CPT, 7-diethylglutathionylmethyl-20(S)-CPT, 7-cysteinyl(thio)methyl-20(S)-CPT and 7-cys-gly-methyl-20(S)-CPT.

3. The compound of Claim 1 wherein R_{27} is C_{1-6} alkyl.

4. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount to inhibit the growth of tumors or to treat leukemia of a compound Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5. A method of treating cancers susceptible to CPT in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount for treating cancers susceptible to CPT of the camptothecin-peptide conjugate of Claim 1.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the cancer is a solid tumor.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the cancer is leukemia.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the mammal is a human.

9. A method for inhibiting the enzyme topoisomerase I, comprising contacting a DNA-topoisomerase I complex with the camptothecin-peptide conjugate of Claim 1.

10. A method for stabilizing the topoisomerase I-DNA cleavable complex, comprising contacting a DNA-topoisomerase I cleavable complex with the camptothecin-peptide conjugate of Claim 1.